IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 9, 18, and 19 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A network-based server device for managing product inventory information on an individual-store basis, comprising:

a receiving unit receiving requests for product information from a customer via a respective client device; and

a processing unit identifying inventory information of ~~near~~ stores having an address which is in proximity to an address designated by the customer, and transmitting, to the client device in response to the request for product information, the identified product inventory information on an individual-store basis corresponding to ~~the~~ respective ~~near~~ stores selected on the basis of customer identification information received from the respective client device,

wherein each store's proximity to the designated address is determined by the processing unit by a first checking for an exact zip code match between the respective ~~plurality of~~ stores and the designated address, a second checking for a match of ~~the~~ first n digits of the designated address zip code and the respective ~~plurality of~~ stores if there was not an exact zip code match, and a third checking for stores having a zip code within a range of the first n digits of the designated address zip code if there was not the exact zip code match and the first n digits of the zip codes did not match.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The network-based server device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmitted product inventory information comprises access information for accessing individual stores.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The network-based server device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmitted product inventory information comprises hours of operation information for individual stores.

4. (CANCELED)

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The network-based server device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing unit sorts the transmitted product inventory information by store in order of proximity to the address designated by the customer.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The network-based server device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing unit adds identifying marks to the transmitted product inventory information so as to identify stores nearest the address designated by the customer.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The network-based server device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the server device adds to the store-based inventory information transmitted to the client device a screen that allows the customer to place a hold on an item.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium containing a program for a server device that manages product inventory information on an individual-store basis, the program comprising:

a receiving unit receiving requests for product information from a customer via a respective client device; and

a processing unit identifying inventory information of ~~near~~ stores having an address which is in proximity to an address designated in customer identification information by the customer, and transmitting, to the client device in response to the request for product information, the identified product inventory information on an individual-store basis corresponding to ~~the~~ respective ~~near~~ stores selected on the basis of customer identification information received from the respective client device,

wherein each store's proximity to the designated address is determined by the processing unit by a first checking for an exact zip code match between the respective ~~plurality of~~ stores and the designated address, a second checking for a match of ~~the~~ first n digits of the designated address zip code and the respective plurality of stores if there was not an exact zip code match, and a third checking for stores having a zip code within a range of the first n digits of the designated address zip code if there was not the exact zip code match and the first n digits of the zip codes did not match.

10. -13. (CANCELED)

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The program as in claim 9, wherein the processing unit sends a signal to the client device requiring the customer to provide identification information to the receiving unit prior to transmitting product inventory information to the client device.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The program as in claim 14, wherein the processing unit interfaces with a plurality of databases to obtain the product inventory information corresponding to individual stores based on the received identification information.

16-17. (CANCELED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A network based store product information inventory interface system, comprising:

a client device to transmit item queries from a customer and to display results corresponding to the item queries;

a network based product information inventory interface, comprising:

a transceiver to receive the item queries from the client device and to transmit the results corresponding to the item queries to the client device; and

a processor, causing the transceiver to send a registration form to the client device, for the customer to enter client identification information thereon, including a designated address, and to return the completed registration form, when the processor does not recognize a registered customer, and retrieving a designated address when the processor recognizes a registered customer,

wherein the processor selects and sorts a plurality of stores from a database of stores based on each store which is in proximity to the designated address, and the processor obtains product inventory information corresponding to the item queries for each selected store and causes the transceiver to transmit the results to the client device, and the customer in response to the displayed results selects items for the respective store to hold for the customer, and each store's proximity to the designated address is determined by the processor by a first checking for an exact zip code match between the respective plurality of stores and the designated address, a second checking for a match of ~~the~~ first n digits of the designated address zip code and the respective plurality of stores if there was not an exact zip code match, and a third checking for stores having a zip code within a range of the first n digits of the designated address zip code if there was not the exact zip code match and the first n digits of the zip codes did not match.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process, comprising:

receiving requests for product information from a customer via a respective client device; and

identifying inventory information of ~~near~~ stores having an address which is in proximity to an address designated by the customer, and transmitting, to the client device in response to the request for product information, the identified product inventory information on an individual-store basis corresponding to ~~the~~ respective ~~near~~ stores selected on the basis of customer identification information received from the respective client device, where each store's proximity to the designated address is determined by comparing for an exact zip code match between the respective ~~plurality of~~ stores and the designated address, a partial match of ~~the~~ first n digits of the designated address zip code and the respective ~~plurality of~~ stores, and a range match of stores having a zip code within a range of the first n digits of the designated address zip code in order until a match occurs.